

School Bus

Unfortunately I have not had any response from the Ministry of Education regarding our school bus schedule even after much effort. Although I was told it would take affect from Term 1 the tendering process is still underway with two bus operators in contention They have indicated there could be changes in Term 2. At this stage the bus route remains status quo. I will inform our school community as soon as possible regarding any changes.

Community News

Visique Optometrists group will be providing a free pair of sunglasses to five-year-old new entrant children around New Zealand when they start school. A free sunnies voucher is available to download through their website and can be redeemed at your local Visique store. www.visique.co.nz

Board of Trustees News

The Board has received Marci Te Ao's resignation from the School Board of Trustees. We would like to thank Marci for his continued support over the past three years as an elected parent representative. We will miss his 'hands on' contribution to the schools maintenance and property programme.

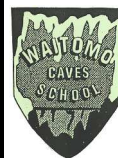
Due to the Board of Trustee elections coming up this vacancy will be filled following the election.

Have you been thinking about nominations for the Board elections this year? If you are interesting in being on the Board please let someone know so you can be nominated. Talk to a current Board member or school staff if you have any queries or want to know more about roles and responsibilities of being on the Board. Updates and information packs will be available soon. We will be calling for nominations following the next Board meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at school on Tuesday 23 February. Time to be confirmed.

What's Coming Up At Waitomo Caves School

6 February	Working Bee
9 February	Manual starts for Yrs 7 & 8
11 February	Marquee going up
12 February	Half day
12-14 February	Centenary Celebrations
15 February	Marquee going down
19 February	Next newsletter
22 February	Kick-Start to School classes resume
22 February	Guitars in to school by this date
23 February	Board of Trustees meeting
24 February	Small Schools Swimming sports

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Principal ☺



Newsletter

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Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Term One 2010

Week One – 5 February

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings and welcome back to a new school year. We extend a very special welcome to our newest students Blaze Cameron, Maddison Gray, Waimarama Anderson and Peta Pitts-Brown. We farewell the Barnes family and Hamu Hohepa. We wish Mikyla, Courtney and Hamu well at their new schools. We have begun the year with 33 students. Kowhai class consists of 13 Year 1 to 3 students and Kauri class has 20 Year 4 to 8 students.

During Term 1 Mrs Glenys George will continue to strengthen our children's musical skills and talents. Mrs Heather Pease will be teaching the senior class during Principal release times and Rachel Stubbs will coach swimming and water safety skills.

Ms Easton has been working extremely hard over the holiday period to update our Te Reo resources and Maori books in the library. Thank you also to Lana, Josephine and Pania for your support in preparing these resources.

There has been a hive of activity going on at school over the holiday period. The painters have finished a wonderful job of painting the school and school house. The pool has been well used by several families and



**WAITOMO
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Proudly Supporting Waitomo Caves School

the Pou has received an enormous amount of attention along with the murals. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved. Thank you Ben, Bex, Alister, Anne, Josephine, Walter, Miria, Richard, John, Martha, Pete, Arama, Kim, Willy, Barbara, Linda, Geoff, Julian, Owen, Maxine, Phil, Allan, Mitch, Pania, Mark Gibson and all the children who helped out too. Also thank you to those people who snuck in, came and went that I have not named. There has been such wonderful support.

Swimming

With the swimming season about to get underway all students will have daily swimming lessons in our school pool. All pupils are expected to participate and parents are asked to send along a note to the teacher if they wish to have their child excused from swimming for health reasons. Swimming attire is very important. Girls are recommended to wear a one piece suit and boys short shorts. Big baggy rashies, t-shirts and shorts restrict children from developing correct swimming techniques and buoyancy. Rashies keep the children cold and are only useful for protecting them from the sun. We provide sunscreen that does this job successfully. We also recommend students wear swimming caps to prevent long hair obstructing vision while in the water.

Rachel Stubbs will be coaching swimming on Wednesday's, Thursday's and Friday's of Term 1. Class teachers will continue the swimming programme on Monday's and Tuesday's. The days Rachel is coaching we are adjusting our lunch time breaks from 12.00 to 12.55pm. If you wish to meet with staff during lunch please call the office to confirm break times and availability.

Thank you to Alannah, Batch and Miria along with other families for maintaining the pool over the summer break.

Music

Mrs George will begin curriculum music on Monday 8 February. We would like to request temporary use of any guitars that may be at home for students to use this term. The seniors will learn to play the guitar and extra guitars will be needed before Monday 22 February. Thank you.

Working Bee

There will be a working bee on Saturday (tomorrow) in order to tidy up the school grounds in preparation for the school centenary. It'll be a 9.30am start, please come along and help throughout the day. Bring a plate for a shared lunch. It would be helpful if you could bring gardening tools, rakes, brooms, weed eaters and a trailer or two. Thank you.

Book Fair

There will be an opportunity over the centenary weekend to browse, select and/or purchase children's books for our school library. Please pop into the library and have a look. Your donations are much appreciated.

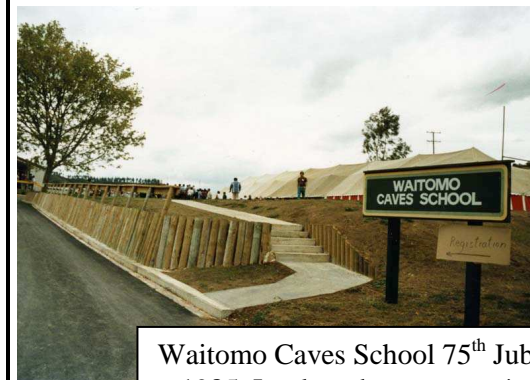
Waitomo Caves School Centenary

On Friday 12 February the centenary celebrations begin at 3.00pm. School will be closed for this afternoon as it seems appropriate to work on glide time for this occasion. **School will close at 12.30pm and children will need to be collected. Bus students will be transported along Te Anga Road doing the bus route as usual leaving school at 12.30pm.**

Students are expected to attend school on Saturday 13 February at 9.30pm. Children will be involved in the powhiri procedures and perform a few items we are perfecting for the occasion. We are providing a sausage sizzle for the children at lunch time and following the official decade photo students will be able to depart with their family when ready.

If parents are happy to volunteer their time during the weekend there are several jobs that require personnel assistance. Please see me for more details and jobs on offer! Thank you.

Preparations for this fabulous occasion are well on track and there is a marvellous group of committee members who have spent the past twelve months organising the event. Even if you are not a past pupil we welcome your involvement over the weekend. Come to the Saturday night dinner and dance, at least, and enjoy the social event of the year. There's a wonderful buffet dinner available with a well know band on offer called Native Sound. There will be a few speeches from local identities and past pupils and evening entertainment. Please see me before Tuesday to register for any of the events over the weekend. See you there!!



Waitomo Caves School 75th Jubilee
– 1985. Look at that marquee!



Ben Stubbs is in this picture.
Can you recognise him?